



# **Mayor E. Denise Simmons**

**The Cambridge City Council**

**&**

**Cambridge School Committee**

**Request the pleasure of your company**

*To a Commemoration of the 200 Anniversary of the Births  
of*

## **Abraham Lincoln and Charles Darwin**

**February 12, 2009 at 4:00 P.M in the Sullivan Chamber**

**Cambridge City Hall**



- **Readings from the works of Abraham Lincoln and Charles Darwin**
- **Commentary by Scholars, Teachers and Students**
- **Songs from the civil war era performed by the MIT Chamber Choir**
- **Mayor's Proclamation (over)**
- **Refreshments**



**February 12, 2009**

**MAYOR SIMMONS**

- WHEREAS: 2009 is the bicentennial of the births of Abraham Lincoln and Charles Darwin, both of whom were born on February 12 1809; and
- WHEREAS: Both these great men made extraordinary contributions to promoting human equality: Lincoln through ending slavery within our nation, and Darwin through establishing that all human beings are members of one species, with common ancestry; and
- WHEREAS: The City of Cambridge has a long history as a home of leaders in the fight for abolition and for equal rights for all, and has played a leading role in electing African-Americans to municipal, state and national office; and
- WHEREAS: The City of Cambridge has long provided a unique environment promoting scientific research and education, and supporting significant advances in biological and biomedical science; and
- WHEREAS: The teaching in our schools of both history of the struggle for the abolition of slavery and for civil rights, and of the mechanisms of evolution, remain foundation stones in the education of our youth; therefore be it
- RESOLVED: That the City Council go on record proclaiming February 12 2009, as the bicentennial of the births of Abraham Lincoln and Charles Darwin; be it further
- RESOLVED: That a series of public education programs sponsored by the Cambridge Science Festival and the Massachusetts Darwin Bi-centennial Project be undertaken in Cambridge Public Schools and in the community, to continue examining the contributions of Abraham Lincoln and Charles Darwin in advancing social equality; be it further
- RESOLVED: That the City Clerk be and hereby is requested to provide a suitably engrossed copy of this proclamation to the organizers of the Darwin bicentennial and to the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library on behalf of the entire City Council.